

Designated Action

Title: Sediment Reuse and Toxicity Criteria

Geographic Area: Delta

Primary Stressor Addressed: Water Quality

Project Type: Research

Applicant Type and Name: Not identified

Funding: The Integration Panel recommends that \$500,000 be allocated to this project.

Cost Share: Not identified

Project Description: Although preliminary surveys have indicated that Delta sediments are contaminated by metals, pesticides, PAHs and PCBs, there is insufficient data to adequately evaluate distribution and associated effects of these sediment-bound contaminants. It is likely that sediment contaminants will be remobilized during levee repair and construction; the remobilized contaminants may impact sediment and water column species through direct effects and/or through bioaccumulation within the Delta foodweb.

The Integration Panel recommends research on two main issues (a) whether Delta sediments are toxic to various components of the aquatic ecosystem, and (b) the beneficial reuse options for various types of Delta sediment. The Integration Panel proposes that the Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee be asked to develop a process and a list of proposals to address the above issues.

A more detailed scope of work and cost estimate will be prepared by the Integration Panel and Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee and resubmitted to the Ecosystem Roundtable for further review and comment.

ERPP Linkage: The designated action meets the goals of the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (CALFED, Volume II, 28 July 1997) as it should reduce loading, concentrations, and bioaccumulation of contaminants of concern to ecosystem health in the water, sediments, and tissues of fish and wildlife in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecological Zone by 25 to 50% as measured against current average levels (page 57).